Can UM's go-to senior receiver keep the Griz on top?

Etu's Back

MONTANA VS. West. Washington
What do you think?
Sculpting History

"I FEEL LIKE IF YOU'RE DETERMINED ENOUGH, YOU CAN'T BE DENIED."

BY CHAD DUNDAS

Etu Molden can hear the fans chanting his name.

This is odd, because it's only Wednesday and Washington Grizzly Stadium is quiet as a study lounge. But it's hard to blame the guy.

No other Griz player in recent memory has so excited fans that they spontaneously shout his name — over and over — before the ball is even put in play. Etu, for his part, eggs them on, bobbing and dancing and waving his arms.

When Etu is finished, Montana kick returns may never be the same.

"I get into that especially," he says. "I heard them the first time, they all started saying 'E-tu! E-tu!', and I thought 'Yeah, that's right'."

Etu, of course, is more than just a kick-return specialist. He's also an art major, the only one on the football team, currently dabbling in sculpture.

Art, he says, is something he grew up with. His mother, Joyce, teaches arts and crafts in Sacramento, Calif., where Etu was born.

"I always used to look at the stuff she did," he says. "I was like 'Wow, that's pretty cool. You made that? Out of nothing? You made that?'"

Etu's current projects include a pair of decorative weapons of bronze as well as a porcelain pawn wearing a crown.

"Nobody expects to see a pawn wearing a crown," he says. "I just do things like that, things people just don't expect. And other things just to have fun with."

While art is his major and football his passion, it appears that most of Etu's time these days is spent looking after Doshia, a five-month-old Boxer pup with a golden coat and heartbreaking eyes. The pair looks to be inseparable and the lives of both suffered a minor crisis Wednesday when Doshia got herself stung while trying to eat a bumblebee.

A trip to the vet for shots followed, but neither the standout wide receiver nor his dog missed football practice.

Etu was back in pads at mid-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Etu Molden shakes off a defender while tucking away a pass against Idaho last year.

Peet McKinney/GDK

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We know the Screaming Eagles of Georgia Southern wake up screaming every night. A tip for the Vikings: Beware the fake punt.
Montana vs. Western Washington

2001 Record • 2-1 Overall, 0-0 Columbia Football Association
2000 Record • 7-3 Overall, 3-1 CFA

Offense

Scott Mitchell

Quarterback
6-3, 210 senior from Kennewick, Wash.
The Vikings are 2-1 and riding a two-game winning streak after out scoring their last two opponents by a total of 121-10. You better believe that Scott Mitchell was a big part of that success. The senior has thrown for 675 yards and two touchdowns in the last two contests. In the Viking's first three games but has still reached 777 yards passing and eight touch- downs on the season. It's the start of his senior year and a CBS TV deal. Now wait, before we all start patting Scott on the back's lets keep in mind that he's played Center Olin Miller and Montana-Western. For now it's time to see how the senior from Tri Cities handles being on the (sort of) big stage.

Defense

Erik Totten

Strong Safety
5-10, senior from Maple Valley, Wash.
We've all seen him play on TV. There is no way that he has never been to Maple Valley, Wash. but it sounds like a happy place where flowers grow beside a bubbling brook. But maybe it's not, since it looks like the senior from Tri Cities handles being on the (sort of) big stage.

NUMERICAL ROSTER

1. Sean Marshall Longview, Wash. WR 6-3 190 Sr.
2. Josh Shimek Pasco, Wash. QB 6-4 215 So.
3. Andy Linscott 10
4. Wayne Tomm 81
5. Scott Roberts 97
6. Nick Giralmo Maple Valley, Wash. OC 6-3 250 Sr.
7. Justin Simpson 52
8. Mark Burridge 23
9. Wayne Parker 36
10. Anthony Daillon 5
12. Martez Johnson 96
14. Scott Mitchell 8
15. Joe Borland 41
17. Jason Prall Olympia, Wash. WR 5-10 175 So.
18. Joe Allen 49
19. Kevin Kamphouse Sumas, Wash. DE 5-5 210 Sr.
20. Todd McCollan 99
21. Jason Barton 57
22. MarkBurridge 94
23. Danny Ball 26
24. Nyle Chambers 95
25. Jake Carline 38
26. Jesse Lock 12
27. Taylor Hilton 40
28. Brett Parker 60
29. Jake Carlyle 12
30. Brett Snyder-Ferguson 31
31. Nick Totten 91
32. Joe Kuhns 66
33. Joel Nash 34
34. James Delgado Seattle, Wash. CB 5-10 170 Fr.
35. Dylan Robertson Bothell, Wash. TE 6-2 215 Fr.
36. Derek Noble Bellevue, Wash. LB 5-0 220 Jr.
37. Ben Smith 61
38. Nick Gobets 79
39. RayJordon Jackson 13
40. Raymond Jackson 81
42. Joy Thompson 20
43. Ross White 47
44. Erik Totten Maple Valley, Wash. SS 5-10 195 Sr.
45. Josh Shimek Pasco, Wash. QB 6-4 215 So.
46. Brett Hall 67
47. Greg Dykstra 9
49. Brett Hall 67
50. Brett Snyder-Ferguson 31
51. Brett Mathews 99
52. Erik Totten Maple Valley, Wash. SS 5-10 195 Sr.
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No word yet if Greg is ready to can, but the senior receiver leads the Vikings in receptions at 12 out of every 12 games played. He's rung up 246 yards per catch. The Montana defense is notoriously weak against the run and if the Vikings can take advantage of that, the offense should be able to score some big time.

WINNING FORMULAS

The key for the Vikings offense will be to get the ball in the hands of wide receiver Greg Dykstra. He's averaging 26.6 yards per catch. In the category He's averaging 26.6 yards per catch. The Montana defense is notoriously weak against the run and if the Vikings can take advantage of that, the offense should be able to score some big time.

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The Montana State Bobcats may have lost the chance to shock the sports world. They most certainly lost a lot of money.

In its third game of the year, the MSU was supposed to play the Division I-A power Oregon State Beavers. After losing to Alabama-Birmingham in their opener and defeating Weber State two weeks ago, the 'Cats looked to be on a roll headed into Oregon.

Oregon State, which had already fallen to then unheralded Fresno State, was looking to rebound against the 'Cats. The Beav's poor performances against Fresno State and New Mexico State (a 27-22 win) and the Bobcats' smacking of Weber forced one GameDay Editor to proclaim, "The world will know the 'Cats are for real when they beat Oregon State."

Montana State beating Oregon State was unlikely two weeks ago, now even playing them has been completely out of the question. After terrorist attacks last week forced postponement of games, Oregon State chose to drop their game with Montana.

The poor Bobcats can't seem to hold up against the Pac-10 teams for real when they beat Oregon State."

No, looking for revenge, NAU must go to Cedar City, Utah to take on the Division II giant-slayers.

averaging an impressive 218.5 yards per game, NAU running back Marcus King is currently leading the Big Sky in all-purpose yardage and is third in the nation in the same category. With his habit of racking up yardage, King has moved into second place on the NAU career rushing list. If the game remains a defensive struggle, look for NAU Offense. Just don't count them as allowing only 46 yards per game on the ground, good enough for seventh in the nation.

Idaho State has yet to play a complete game this season. Before their meeting with Eastern Washington last week was postponed, the Bengals beat Montana Tech 49-7 in a game that was called with 12:53 remaining due to a power outage. Idaho State can score a lot of points and sadly for the Sacramento State Hornets, they can't seem to stop anybody. With their 1-1 record, the Hornets are dead last in the Big Sky Conference in scoring defense and total, allowing a disheartening 30.5 points per game while giving up 482 total yards per contest.

Even worse news for Sacramento State is that they are an unremarkable 0-5 in Big Sky Conference openers since joining the conference in 1996.

Portland State In one of the biggest Division I-AA games in the country this week, the No. 17 Portland State Vikings will play host to No. 15 Grambling State.

This will be the first trip to play against a Big Sky Conference opponent for Grambling State head coach Doug Williams who led the Washington Redskins to victory over the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XX.

Eastern Washington vs. Weber State If you happen to be a fan of spread out, 60 yards through the air, look no further for Eastern Washington Eagles. Currently the Eagles are leading the nation in both passing offense and total offense, averaging 384 yards per game while the air and 530 yards per game total. Calling the shots for the explosive EWU offense is quarterback Fred Salanoa who averages passing for 373 yards per game.

All these impressive offensive numbers look even more impressive when compared to the defense of conference bottom-dweller Weber State who the Eagles face this weekend. Weber State will be trying to end a two-game losing streak to Eastern but things don't look good when they are the second-worst total defense team in the Big Sky and rank at or near the bottom of 12 of the 26 total Big Sky categories statistical categories.

Idaho State vs. Sac State Last season the Idaho State Bengals built a 21-point lead over Sacramento State but had to hold off a late Hornet rally to escape with a two-point victory.
Streaking Vikings hope to surprise No.2 Montana

Carl Hennell
GameDay Kaomin

Western Washington University may be a Division II team, but having outs cored their last two opponents 121-10, they’re itching for an NCAA I-AA powerhouse to under estimate them.

"We’re excited about playing," said Grizzly coach Joe Glenn, who compiled a 98-35 record at Div. II Northern Colorado before leading the Griz to a 13-2 campaign and a trip to the I-AA national championship last year. "It doesn’t matter who we’re playing. It’s just good to get back on the field."

The Griz (1-1) face a Viking team (2-1) returning 16 starters from last year’s Great Northwest Conference championship and they’re riding high, averaging 50 points and 483 yards per game after pillaging University of Montana-Western last Saturday, 77-0. WWU is led by 6-foot-3-inch senior quarterback Scott Mitchell. Mitchell passed for 1,975 yards and 21 touchdowns the past two years and ranked eighth nationally last year in passing efficiency.

"He’s really made me change what I look for in a quarterback because his ability to create has meant so much to our offense," said Viking coach Rod Smith. "Now we try to build that into our playbook."

In essentially two games this year (he was injured for the first three-quarters of the season opener and was pulled in the fourth quarter of last week’s blowout), Mitchell has completed 50 of 63 passes for 777 yards, eight touchdowns and scrambled for 109 yards and a touchdown.

"He’s excellent," said Glenn. "He’ll be as good as any quarterback we are going to see in our league."

"We’re not going to be able to shut him out. We’ve just got to be aware of what he’s doing, stay in our passing lanes and hope our coverage doesn’t break down."

Mitchell’s favorite target is 6-foot-1-inch junior wide receiver Greg Dykstra. As a sophomore, Dykstra caught 42 passes for 717 yards and nine touchdowns. This year he has caught 14 passes for 344 yards, averaging 114 per game, and three touchdowns.

"Mitchell has great confidence in Greg," said Smith, who has led the Vikings to the playoffs five times in the last nine years. "Greg has deceptive speed, excellent hands and he’s able to use body position very effectively."

"He’s a good receiver," said Glenn.

"Hopefully he isn’t as fast as the Hawaii receivers."

The Vikings are bringing a rush defense that ranked 14th in the nation last year to try and bot­ tie-up UM’s all-time leading

rusher Yohann Humphrey, who has piled up 292 rushing yards in two games this year.

The last time the Grizzlies faced a Div. II team was Sept. 4, 1999. They beat South Dakota 45-13.
Sculpting History

"I GET INTO THAT ESPECIALLY. I HEARD THEM THE FIRST TIME, THEY ALL STARTED SAYING 'E-TU! E-TU!,' AND I THOUGHT 'YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.'"

Mike Cohea/GDK

Etu Molden gives freshmen receivers an earful at practice.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

week after sitting out Tuesday's practice nursing a groin injury. Doshia waited close by, leashed to a thick silver chain and a black leather collar studded with half-inch spikes.

Etu says he's just happy that Montana is giving him the opportunity to touch the ball. Recruited as a safety, he spent his first two seasons at UM on defense.

"I just complained, man," Etu says of his efforts to convince coaches he should be a receiver. "I played both ways in high school. I was playing safety (here) but in my heart of hearts I just didn't feel like that was my position. I stole a couple of playbooks and copied down the plays and I was trying to prove to the coaches that I knew it."

Griz coaches eventually gave in, letting both Etu and his freshman roommate, Yo Humphrey, move away from the defensive backfield. It turned out to be a pretty good idea. They became two of Montana's prime offensive weapons.

Etu says playing receiver is all he's ever wanted to do.

"Ever since I can remember, when I was a little kid I was like 'Man, I want to be like Jerry Rice," Etu says. "I want to go out there and catch passes and score touchdowns."

So far, Etu's career at Montana has been punctuated by a few memorable moments. The game-winning catch in double overtime to beat Sac State in '99. Leaping over a Georgia Southern corner to score Montana's first touchdown in last year's national championship game. Later in the same game, rolling out and firing a pass downfield that barely eluded Jimmy Farris' outstretched fingers. And of course those kick-returns.

But he knows he's yet to establish himself as a premier UM receiver. Etu hasn't made the short list of Grizzly greats — a list that includes names like Wells, Douglass and Farris.

"I feel like I definitely have all the tools to get there," he says. As one of two seniors on the Grizzly receiving corps this year, Etu says he's made a conscious effort to mold himself into a leader. Off the field he's light-hearted, laid back. But when it's time to suit-up, the easy-going, gap-toothed smile disappears.

"When I hit the field it's totally different, it's all business," he says. "When it comes to the game you've got to flip that switch in order to compete or else I feel you put yourself at jeopardy out there. It's a dangerous game."

Etu says he'll take this season week by week and at the end he fully expects to have left his mark on UM's football program. He's interested in pursuing professional football after he gets his art degree this spring.

"I feel like if you're determined enough, you can't be denied," he says.

Etu's place in Grizzly history won't be clear until the end of the season. One thing is certain. Saturday, when UM lines up to receive its first kickoff, the fans will be chanting his name.

Welcome Home, Grizzlies

In the stadium, at our University Center store, or online, The Bookstore is your source for everything Grizzly.